



Cornell University

Ithaca, New York 14853

Department of Government
McGraw Hall

17 March 1978

MAR 20 1978

[Handwritten signature/initials]

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Josh:

Thanks for your kind words. I've been accused of false optimism generally on a resurgence of defense on the European battlefield, and would probably thus overextend this to guess that CBW may favor the defense in the end too, simply by the way it will complicate and burden any army planning the grand sweep toward Paris (or Warsaw).

On the dangers of distributing PGM's Swiss-Army-style to individual soldiers for storage in their hall closets, this indeed strikes me as altogether real. The question of command-and-control or permissive-action-links for shoulder-fired anti-aircraft or anti-tank missiles may thus generate some real problems.

Belated congratulations on your imminent move to Rockefeller. I'll be fascinated to watch what you do with the place.

Sincerely yours,

[Handwritten signature of George H. Quester]

George H. Quester

GHQ/f

You're an optimist if you think that weapons SYSTEMS we don't have (e.g. CBR-defended personnel carriers, etc.) are going to give us an advantage. But there were useful discussions about this in General Meyer's testimony to the HR Armed Serv Comm 3/77 -- Cf. the CRS review 77-192SP on CBW 76-77.

About Swiss style defense, I was interested to read Canby's article and to discuss your point with Eb Rehtin (who has now moved to be Pres. of Aerospace Corp'n.) He remarks that the advanced guys need but be spotters and [laser- etc.]-designators. The hardware can be many miles away. And I think there is still plenty of room for automated sensors (yes, the electronic battlefield) that could GREATLY enhance the defense side, in a similar context.